



Examining The Southeastern CT Labor Market

Presented to the:

Commission On Connecticut's Future

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Eastern CT

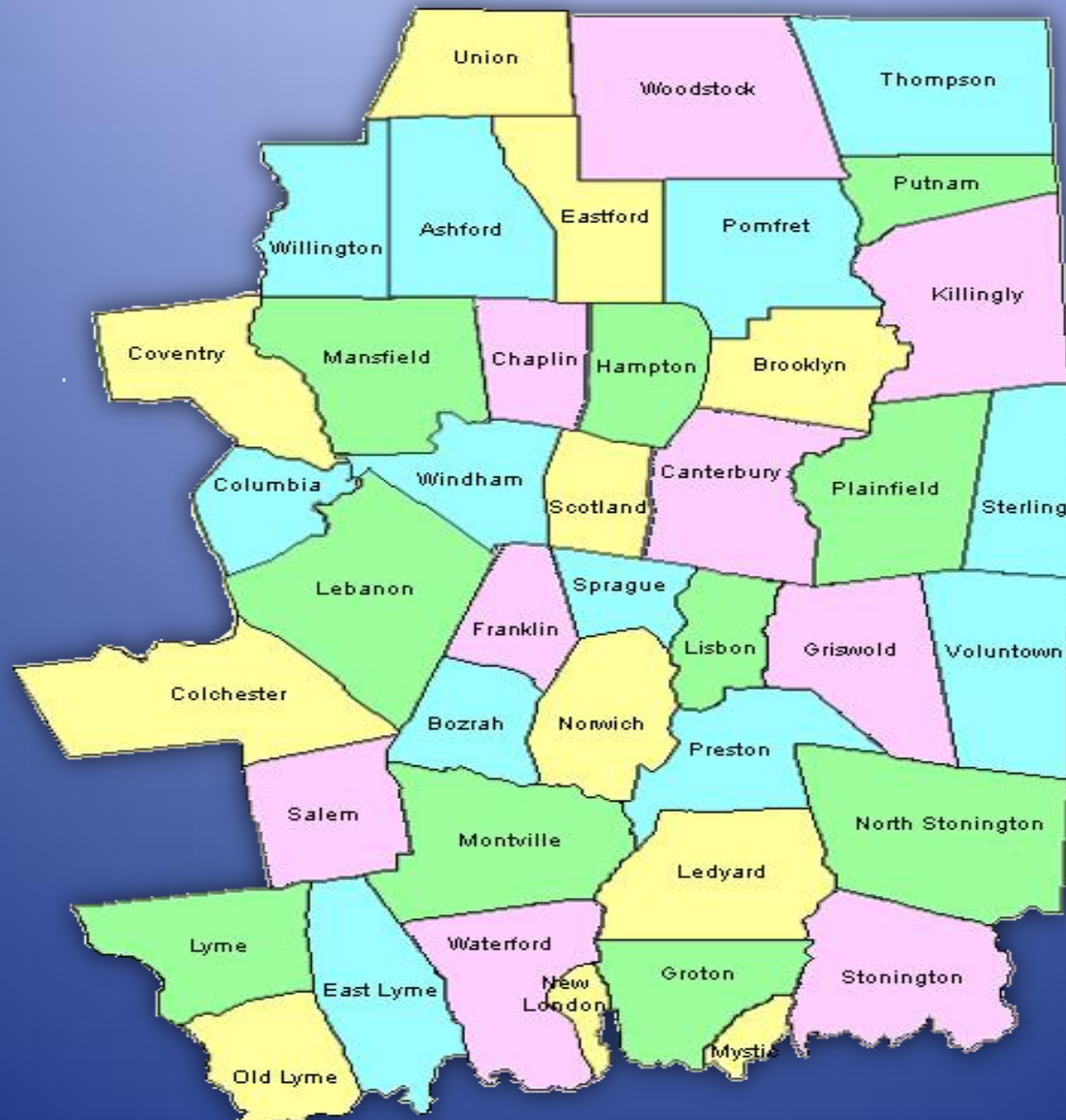
Workforce Investment Board (EWIB)

- 1) Federally mandated Board for workforce policy
 - a) Private sector majority BOD
 - b) Partners with Elected Officials
 - c) Federal law prohibits “*Direct Service Provision*” by EWIB

- 2) Responsibilities include:
 - a) Fiscal steward of federal, state, & local funds
 - b) Shared oversight w/CT DOL of 4 American Job Centers
 - c) Partnering with employers & industry groups



The Eastern Workforce Region





OUTLINE

I. A Walk In Our Shoes *(1990-Present)*

II. Clearing A Path To The Future

- Through A Sustained Focus on STEM Competencies
- Through Aligning Regional Resources
- Through Region-to-State Partnerships





***“We can complain
because rose bushes
have thorns, or
rejoice because thorn
bushes have roses.”***

~ Abraham Lincoln



I. A Walk In Our Shoes

(1990-Present)

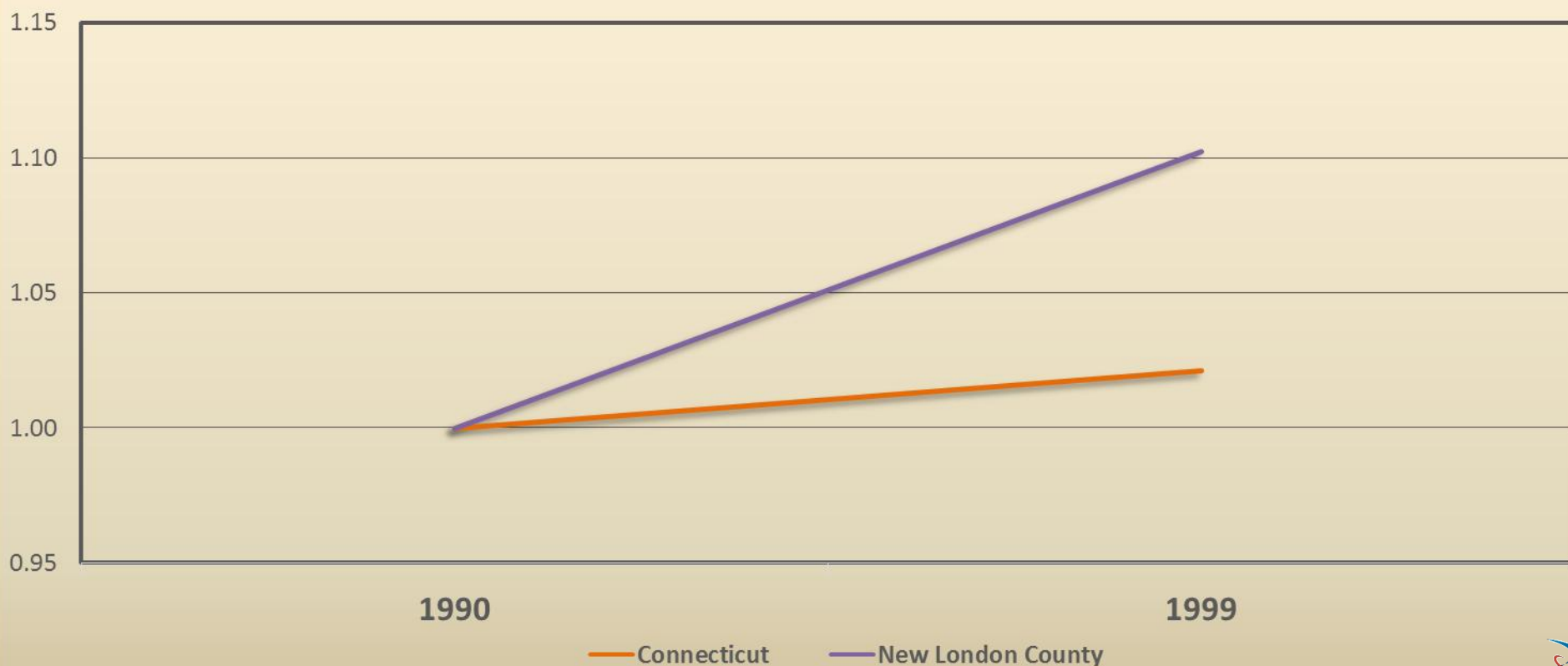


Step 1 – Can We Keep Up This Pace?

“...the speed at which this change occurred is truly without precedent in this region. No other decade [1990-2000] in the history of Southeastern Connecticut witnessed economic changes of this significance”

*-- Housing a Region in Transition ~ An Analysis of Housing Needs
in Southeastern Connecticut, 2000-2005” by the SE/CT Council of Governments*

% Change In Total Employment: CT vs. Norwich/NL Labor Market January 1990 - December 1999



Source: CT DOL Current Employment Statistics

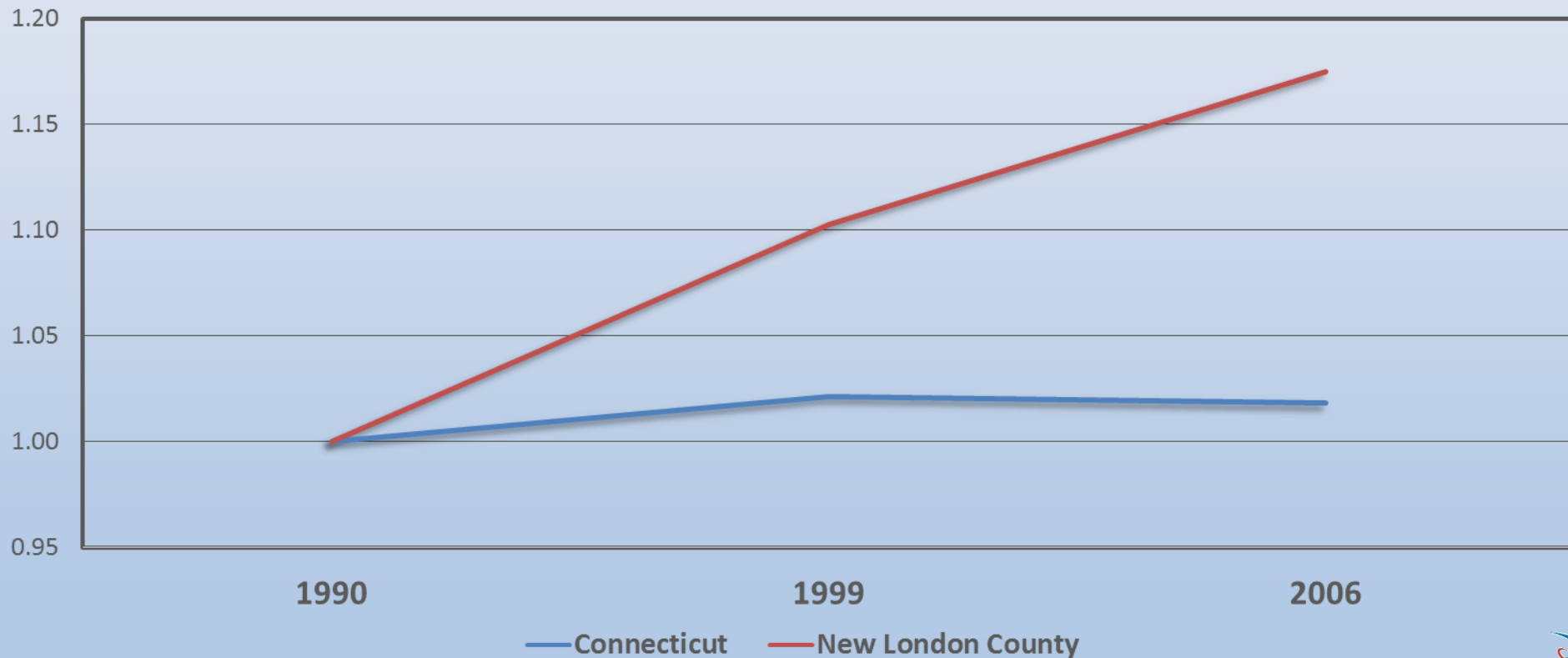


Step 2 – We Are Still Soaring!

“According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Connecticut’s net new job growth since 1990 has been tepid, up only 1.3 percent in 16 years. But job creation in New London County is the state’s good news story, up 19.2 percent...”

~ “Governor’s Commission for the Economic Diversification of SE/CT” Final Report (12/15/06)

% Change In Total Employment:
CT vs. Norwich/NL Labor Market
January 1990 - December 1999 - January 2006



Source: CT DOL Current Employment Statistics



Step 3 – Large Employer Layoffs Hit Region Hard

June 20, 2012

The Bulletin **Job losses in** **area among** **worst in U.S.**

Norwich-New London is
4th hardest-hit, feds say

The Day

March 9, 2013

Outlook not **very bright** **for region's** **jobless rate**

Norwich-New London area
remains among slowest on
road to economic recovery

September 16, 2014

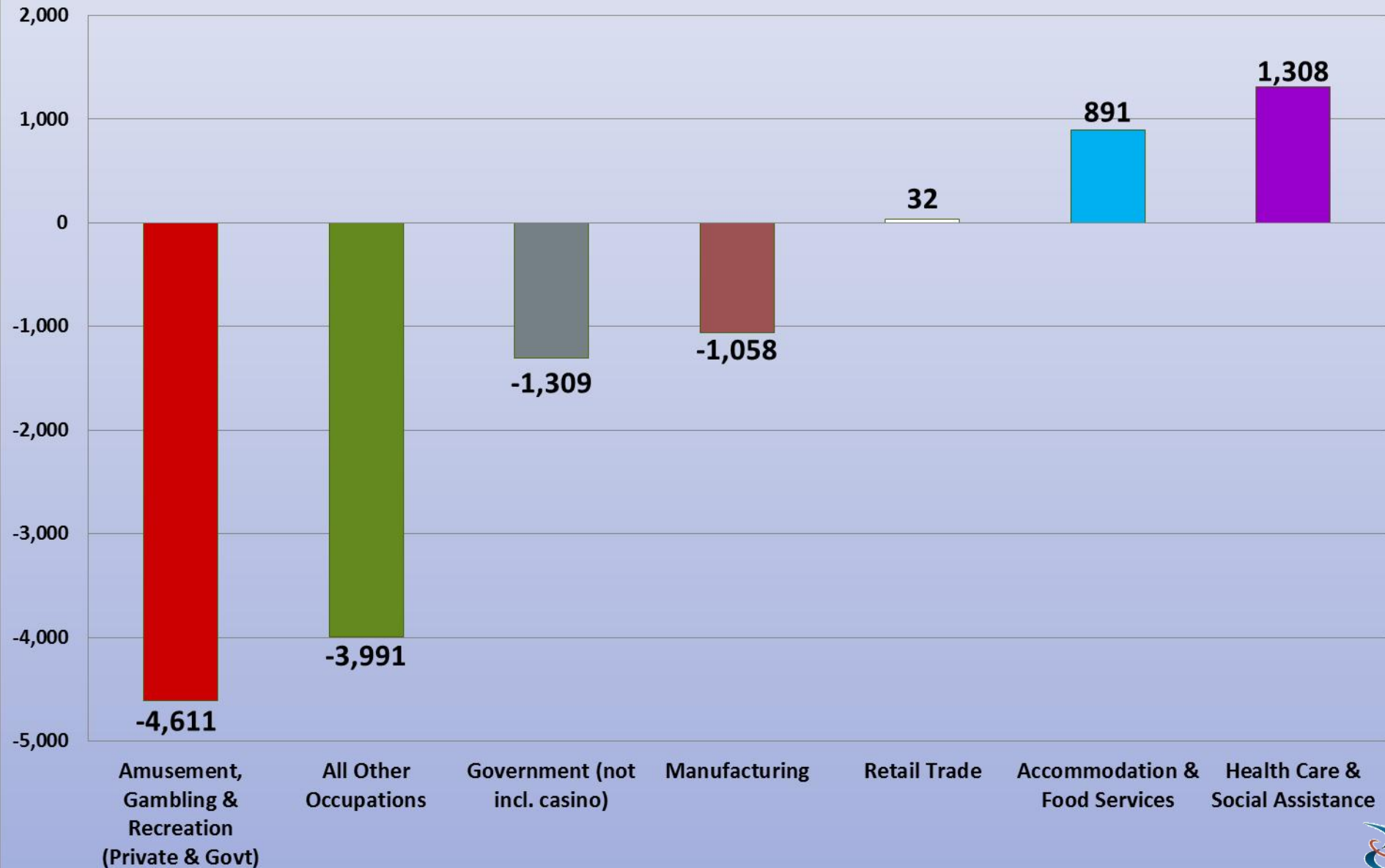
Hartford **Courant**

Southeast Connecticut In
Sixth Year of Recession,
As Rest of State Grows
Moderately



Step 3 – Change In Annual Average Employment By Industry: *New London County 2008-2013*

Source: QCEW Program Data



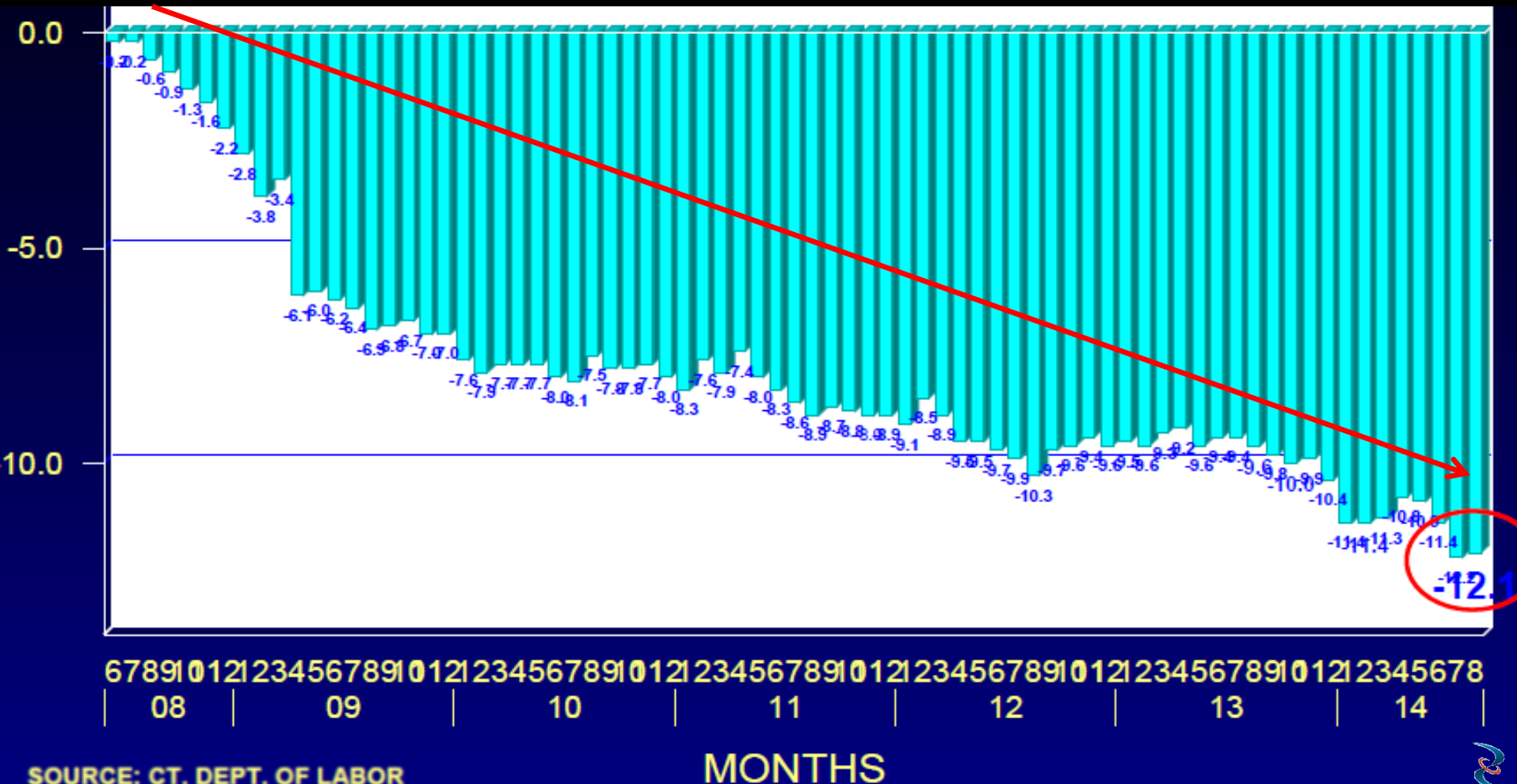
Step 3 – Sustained Reductions at Economic “Drivers” have Lingering Effects

Nor/NL Job Losses (1,000's)

Cumulative

May '08 - Present

New data shows the Norwich/New London LMA formed a fresh employment low in July 2014.

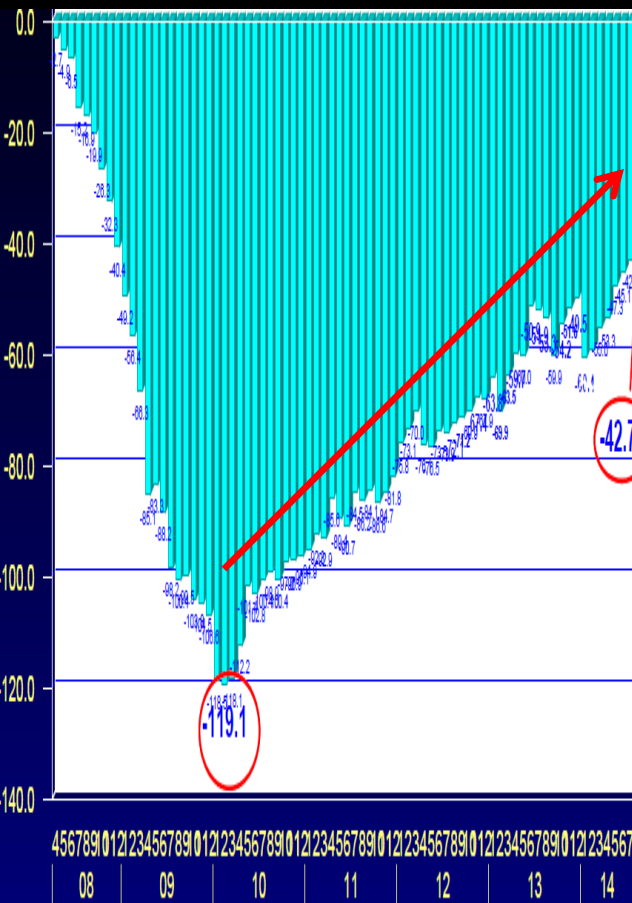


Step 3 – What Have Norwich/New London Jobseekers Been Up Against?

CT Job Losses

Cumulative (Mar '08 – Present)

The CT economic job recovery now stands at 60%. Loss from peak as of July 2014: 42,700.

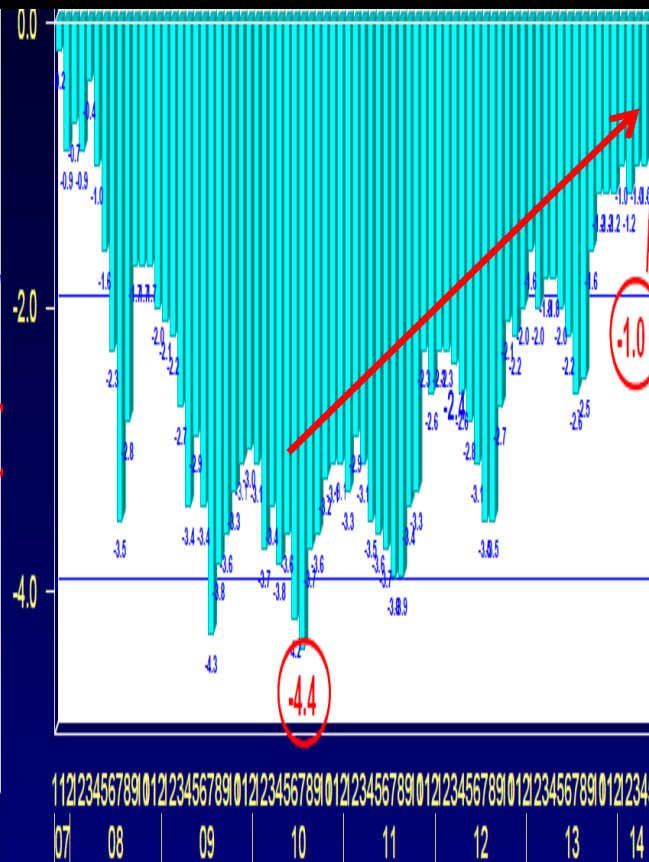


MONTHS

Willi/Dan Job Losses

Cumulative (Oct '07 – Present)

Willimantic/Danielson LMA added back 3,400 jobs since the low of 34,800 in mid-2010 for a recovery rate of 77.6%. It's possible that full job recovery may even be realized this year.



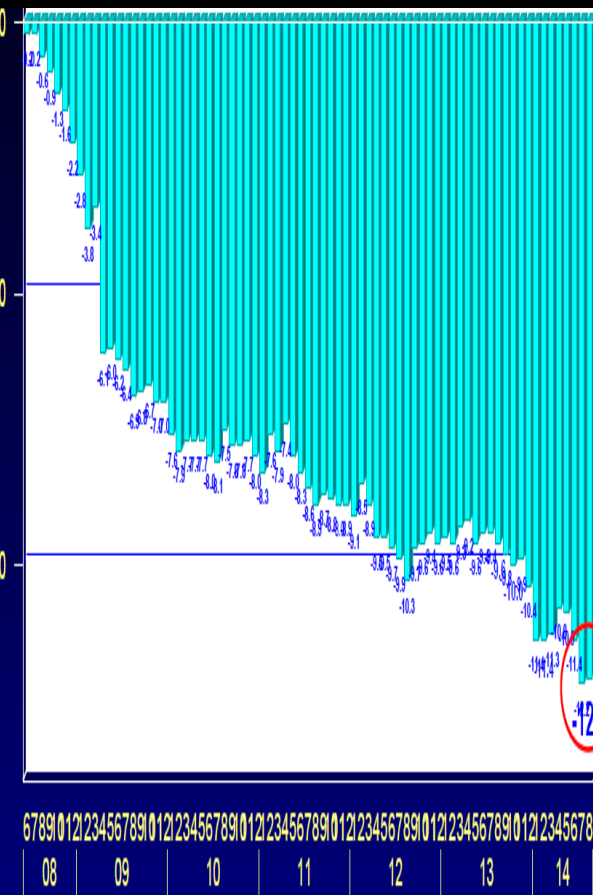
MONTHS

SOURCES: BLS, DATACORE PARTNERS LLC, DATACORE CALCULATIONS FOR WILLIMANTIC-DAN LMA AND EWING REGIONS

Nor/NL Job Losses

Cumulative (May '08 – Present)

New data shows the Norwich/New London LMA formed a fresh employment low in July 2014.



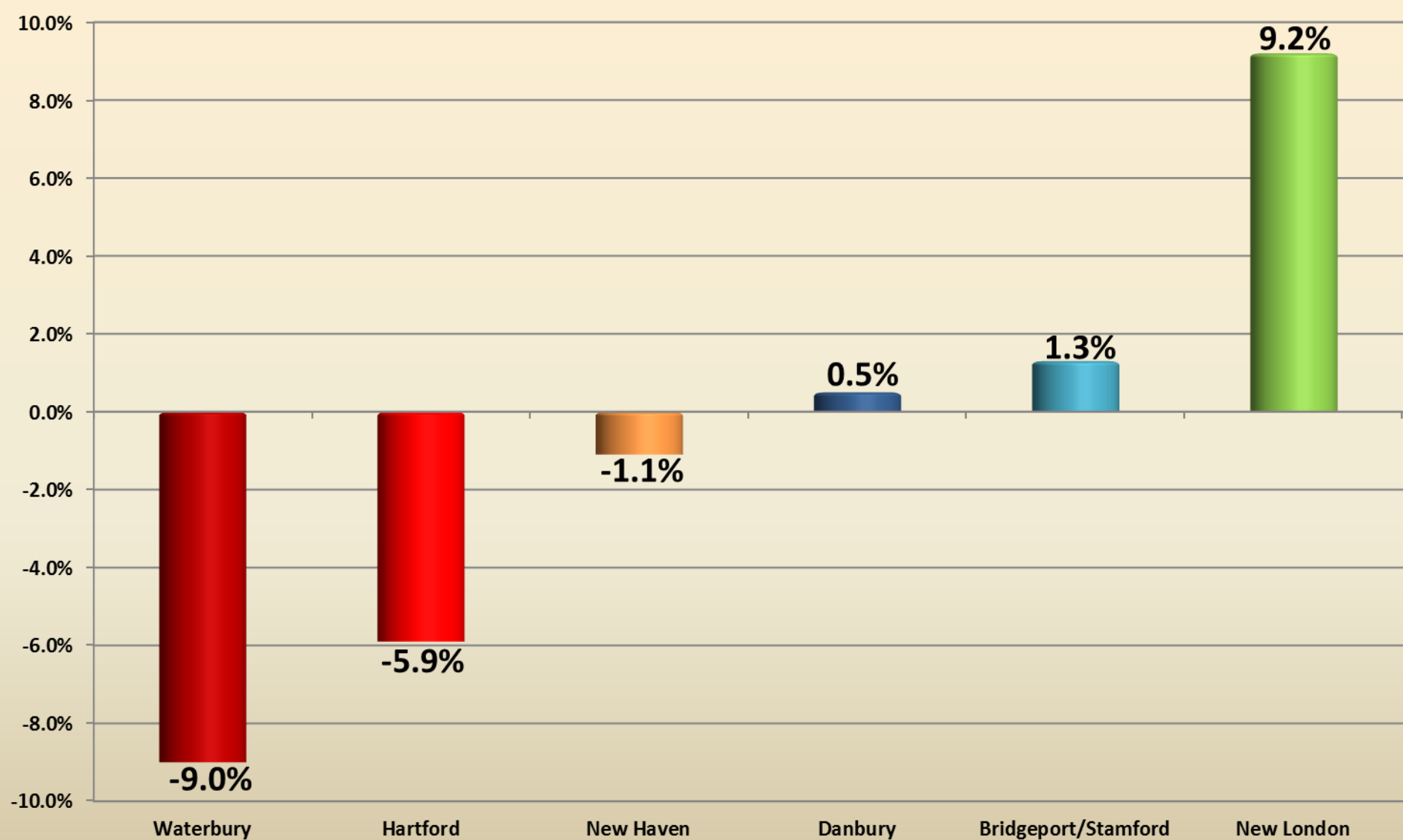
MONTHS

SOURCE: CT. DEPT. OF LABOR



The Road Behind Looks Different From A Distance

Jan '90 – Dec '13 % Change In Job Gains ~ *By CT Labor Market*



II. Clearing A Path To The Future

“Given economic conditions and scarce resources, the region prioritizes the investment into talent/skill areas that will stimulate economic activity as opposed to react to it.”

~ EWIB Regional Innovation Grant 2009



Clearing A Path To The Future

Consistent Emphasis On STEM Competencies

- 1) EWIB's Tri-State *"Regional Innovation Grant"* adopts a STEM skills priority (2008-2010)
- 2) AJC-East online learning model providing college credit & industry credentials, recommended for replication statewide (2008-present)
- 3) East region selected to administer state's *"CT STEM Jobs"* federal award (1 of 5 nationally) (2009-2012)
- 4) Federal STEM On-the-Job Training Grant Fund awarded (2012-present)



Clearing A Path To The Future

The Importance Of Alignment

- 1) **Business Services** - The region's workforce system adopts a coordinated approach implemented by Chambers, CTDOL, & EWIB (*employer contacts climb*)
- 2) **CEDS** - Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy incorporates Workforce Board plan
- 3) **Advanced Manufacturing Partnership** - The region's Alliance is housed at the Workforce Investment Board
- 4) **Manufacturing pipeline development strategy cross-endorsed** - Region-to-State communication articulated by Industry, Higher Education, Technical High Schools, & Workforce Investment Board



Clearing A Path To The Future

State Agency Partnerships

- 1) **DECD** includes Eastern shipbuilding industry in application for federal “*Manufacturing Community*” designation (*April 2014*)
- 2) **CT DOL** Job-Driven National Emergency Grant
- 3) **Education/Higher Education**
 - a. BOR/ConnSCU includes region’s (*TRCC*) metal fabrication program in TAA application (*July 2014*)
 - b. Taps East as state-sponsored P-TECH site (*scheduled to open Fall 2015*)
 - c. Tech HS System re-establishing Welding Instruction & Facility



The Bulletin

September 2, 2014

Optimism about jobs in region still strong

Leaders confident in continued economic growth

